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# Energy Innovation Grant Program 2021 Webinar

November 10, 2021

1:00pm - 2:30pm



Wisconsin Office of Energy Innovation

# Agenda

- ▶ Introduction to the Wisconsin Office of Energy Innovation
- ▶ Energy Innovation Grant Program
- ▶ Funding Available
- ▶ 2021 Updates
- ▶ Program Timeline
- ▶ Eligible Applicants
- ▶ Understanding the 3 Activity System
- ▶ Eligible Project Activities
- ▶ Application Content and Merit Review Criteria
- ▶ American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA Federal Funds)
- ▶ Reporting Requirements
- ▶ Questions?

# Office of Energy Innovation

## Vision

Our vision is that Wisconsin homes, businesses, and vehicles are powered with clean, efficient, reliable energy that creates jobs and grows our economy in an equitable manner where all can share in the benefits.

## Mission

Developing Wisconsin's energy landscape to be secure, environmentally responsible, and growing the state's economy for all.

## Programs

- ✓ Focus on Energy: Incentives, Technical Assistance, Training, Trade Ally Support
- ✓ State Energy Office: Grants, Technical Assistance, Energy Statistics & Data, Energy Security

# Office of Energy Innovation

## Strategies:

- ▶ Advance and deploy energy efficiency, renewable energy, and energy storage technologies through EIGP.
- ▶ Advance energy security and resiliency through planning, statewide collaboration and grant programs such as Refueling Readiness and Critical Infrastructure Microgrids and Community Resiliency Centers.
- ▶ Increase equitable access to efficiency and renewable energy technologies through SEP funded projects targeted to communities in need.
- ▶ Provide current, actionable energy data and statistics to the public through the modernized Wisconsin Energy Stats Dashboard.

# EIGP 2021 Program Objectives

- ▶ **Support innovative energy technologies** that have the potential to serve as a model or better inform decision-makers on emerging trends in the energy sector.
- ▶ **Help to provide equitable access** to the benefits of clean energy, efficiency, and preparedness by reaching broad applicant types.
- ▶ **Support Carbon Reduction** with projects supporting Governor's goal of 100% carbon-free electricity by 2050.

# EIGP 2021 Program Funding

- ▶ **Total Funding Available-** \$10 million
  - ▶ Activity 1: Renewable Energy and Energy Storage - \$4.6 million
  - ▶ Activity 2: Energy Efficiency and Demand Response - \$4.6 million
  - ▶ Activity 3: Comprehensive Energy Planning - \$714,000

# Of particular interest for the 2021 Application...

- ▶ Updated Eligible Project Activities
- ▶ Eligible entities may submit one application per activity
- ▶ NEPA EQ1 Worksheet required upon application for some projects

# EIGP Program Timeline

DATE	EVENT
October 15, 2021	Date of issue of the 2021 Application Instructions
November 10, 2021	Webinar for Prospective Applicants
December 10, 2021	Last day for submitting questions and requests for clarification
January 14, 2022	Applications due by <b>4:30 pm CDT on Friday January 14, 2022</b>
February 2022 (TBD)	Screening committee evaluation
March 2022 (TBD)	PSC determination of 2021 Energy Innovation Grant Program Awards
Spring 2022	Contract negotiations and applicable next steps related to NEPA review, etc.
Spring 2022 – Spring 2023	Project performance period



# Eligible Applicants

- ▶ Municipalities, Universities, Schools, Hospitals, and Like Entities (MUSH Market): cities, villages, towns, counties, K-12 school districts, tribes, municipal water and wastewater utilities, municipal electric utilities, municipal natural gas utilities, University of Wisconsin System campuses and facilities, Wisconsin Technical College System, public or nonprofit hospitals.
- ▶ Manufacturers as defined by Wis. Stat. § 77.51(7h)1
- ▶ 501(c)(3) nonprofits

# Understanding the 3 Activity System

- ▶ Commission has established a “bucket” of funds for each of the eligible activities
  - ▶ Activity 1: Renewable Energy and Energy Storage - \$4.6 million
  - ▶ Activity 2: Energy Efficiency and Demand Response - \$4.6 million
  - ▶ Activity 3: Comprehensive Energy Planning - \$714,000
- ▶ New this year: Applicants may submit one application per Activity to compete separately in each.
  - ▶ No combining activities in a single application.
- ▶ Demonstrating eligibility: The Commission ultimately determines what is eligible.

# Activity 1: Renewable Energy and Energy Storage

Includes host-owned projects to install a solar photovoltaic (PV) system, a renewable energy system other than solar PV, a standalone battery storage system, or a project that will combine a battery storage system with solar PV or another renewable energy system.

- ▶ **Renewable Energy Systems [other than PV Systems] - \$500,000 max. grant request**
  - ▶ Installation or upgrade of a biogas, biomass, geothermal, solar thermal, wind, or other renewable resource system.
- ▶ **Solar PV Systems – \$250,000 max. grant request**
  - ▶ Installation or upgrade of a solar PV system.
- ▶ **Energy Storage System - \$250,000 max. grant request**
  - ▶ Installation or upgrade of a battery storage system.
- ▶ **Renewable Energy Systems with Energy Storage System- \$500,000 (Solar PV) \$750,000 (all other Renewable Energy) max. grant request**
  - ▶ Installation of a battery storage system combined with installation or upgrade of a solar PV or other renewable energy system.

# Activity 2: Energy Efficiency and Demand Response

## Maximum Grant Request - \$1,000,000

Includes projects to conduct building energy efficiency, process efficiency, demand response improvements, or any combination thereof.

- **Building Energy Efficiency.** Reduction of electric and thermal (gas, fuel oil, propane, etc.) energy use in buildings via the installation of efficient building technologies and the application of building science and management techniques, such as more efficient lighting (interior or affixed exterior), improved heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems, and water conservation systems.
- **Process Efficiency.** Improvement of the energy intensity of processes related to manufacturing, waste or wastewater treatment for example, by automation or other means. Projects may address unique needs of large energy users or others.
- **Demand Response.** Installation of commercial demand response technology that reduces or shifts electricity usage during peak periods in response to time-based rates and/or demand charges.
- **Beneficial Electrification.** Use of electricity for energy services that would otherwise consume fossil fuels (e.g. propane, heating oil, gasoline, diesel) in a way that reduces overall emissions and energy costs. <sup>2</sup>

# Activity 3: Comprehensive Energy Planning

**Maximum Grant Request – Single Applicants up to \$50,000, Multiple Applicants (Consortium \$100,000)**

This category will fund projects undertaking a number of planning efforts including comprehensive energy planning, electric vehicle planning, or a comprehensive energy audit.

- ▶ **Comprehensive Energy Planning.** Plan that includes, at a minimum, evaluation of current energy use and sources for facilities and fleets,
- ▶ **Investment Grade Audit.** A comprehensive energy audit that seeks to identify all cost-effective investment opportunities through a combination of engineering analysis of energy-using systems and economic analysis of possible energy saving measures.
- ▶ **Technology Transfer and Market Transformation Planning.** Plan relates to an applicant's efforts as it transitions a key component of its existing technology use, and may serve as a model for other entities in the applicant's sector

# Required Accounts – START TODAY!

- ▶ Applications will be submitted using the Commission’s Electronic Records Filing System (ERF)
  - ❑ You must register for an account before you apply
    - ❑ “Individual” account type is preferred and fastest). **Create an ERF Account Today!**
  - ❑ You must file by **4:30 PM** on the due date (January 14, 2022). **File early** if possible!
  - ❑ Avoid Confidential Filing unless absolutely necessary! See Section 2.3 of the Application Instructions **in advance** for Notary Public Requirements.
  
- ▶ DUNS Number is a unique identifier for recipients of Federal funds
  
- ▶ SAM.gov Registration provides us with data on your organization and its ability to receive Federal funds

# Application Content

- ▶ **Application Cover Sheet (Attachment A)**
- ▶ **Application Budget Sheet (Attachment B)**
- ▶ **Application Executive Summary**
- ▶ **Application Narrative and Merit Review Criteria (15 page limit, excluding reference materials)**
- ▶ **NEPA EQ1 Worksheet (where applicable)**

# Project Proposal Cover Sheet (Attachment A)



Public Service Commission of Wisconsin  
Office of Energy Innovation  
Energy Innovation Grant Program



ATTACHMENT A - COVER SHEET

SECTION I - Provide information summarizing the project proposal.			
<b>Project Title:</b>			
<b>PSC Grant Request (\$):</b>		<b>Applicant Cost Share (\$):</b>	<b>Project Total (\$):</b>
<b>Choose one Eligible Activity</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Renewable Energy & Energy Storage	<input type="checkbox"/> Energy Efficiency & Demand Response	<input type="checkbox"/> Comprehensive Energy Planning	
<b>Acknowledgement of ARRA Applicability. Check all that apply.</b> (See Section 1.3 of Application Instructions)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Buy American: Alteration, maintenance or repair of a public building or public work.			
<input type="checkbox"/> Davis Bacon and Related Acts: Use of laborers or mechanics employed by contractors and subcontractors.			
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic Preservation: Project involves historical (over 50 years old), archeological or cultural resources.			
National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA): Review the list of covered activities in Attachment C (also discussed in Section 1.3.4) of the Application Instructions.			
<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Questionnaire is attached. Project activity is <b>not</b> covered.			
<input type="checkbox"/> No Environmental Questionnaire needed. Project activity is covered.			
SECTION II - Provide information for your organization, signatory, and primary contact for the project.			
<b>Applicant Type:</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> City	<input type="checkbox"/> Village	<input type="checkbox"/> Town	<input type="checkbox"/> County
<input type="checkbox"/> Tribal Nation	<input type="checkbox"/> Manufacturer	<input type="checkbox"/> K-12 School District	
<input type="checkbox"/> University of Wisconsin System	<input type="checkbox"/> Wisconsin Technical College System	<input type="checkbox"/> 501(c)(3) nonprofit	
<input type="checkbox"/> Municipal Utility (water, wastewater, electric, natural gas)		<input type="checkbox"/> Hospital (public or nonprofit)	
<b>Name (on W-9):</b>			
<b>Address (on W-9):</b>			
<b>County or Counties Served by Project:</b>			
<b>DUNS Number or CAGE Code:</b>			
<b>NAICS Code:</b>			
<b>FEIN</b>			
<b>Authorized Representative/Signatory</b> (Person authorized to submit applications and sign contracts)		<b>Primary Contact</b> (if different from Authorized Representative)	
<b>Name:</b>		<b>Name:</b>	
<b>Title:</b>		<b>Title:</b>	
<b>Phone:</b>		<b>Phone:</b>	
<b>E-mail:</b>		<b>E-mail:</b>	
<b>Signature of the Authorized Representative</b>			



# Application Executive Summary

- ▶ **Application Executive Summary (3 page limit)**
  - ▶ **Project Description**
  - ▶ **Key Partners and Stakeholders**
  - ▶ **Project Objectives and Metrics**
  - ▶ **Reference Materials List**

# Application Narrative and Merit Review Criteria

- ▶ **Application Narrative and Merit Review Criteria (15 page limit)**
- ▶ Eligibility and ability to achieve the objectives
- ▶ Budget Justification and Cost Share (“Match”)
- ▶ Savings and Payback
- ▶ Energy Savings and Environmental Impact
- ▶ Equity and Energy Justice
- ▶ Financial Leverage and Economic Impact
- ▶ Existing Energy Planning Efforts
- ▶ Energy Resiliency
- ▶ Education and Awareness
- ▶ Innovation

# Cost Share (“Match”)

- ▶ **Budget Justification and Cost Share (“Match”)** Provide a cost basis for each line item on which costs were entered on Attachment B - Budget Sheet. Identify what costs or portions thereof are anticipated to be grant-funded or funded by the applicant’s share of the project cost (“cost share” or “match”).
- ▶ **Match** is encouraged, but optional, and **cannot** include other federal funding.
- ▶ **Matching fund sources** should be identified, e.g. Focus on Energy funding, state, local, or private funds, tax incentives, etc.

# Project Budget (Attachment B)

Enter the Applicant Name				
Enter the Project Title				
Summary of Project Budget				
Line	Description	PSC Grant Request	Applicant Cost Share	Total Project Cost
1	Personnel			\$0
2	Fringe			\$0
3	Equipment			\$0
4	Supplies			\$0
5	Travel			\$0
6	Contractual			\$0
7	Other			\$0
8	Indirect			\$0
<b>Totals</b>		\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>% of Total</b>		#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	
<div style="font-size: 48px; opacity: 0.5; pointer-events: none;">Page 1</div>				
<p><b>Applicant Comments:</b> Enter budget information into the gray fields of the Summary Project Budget. Fields are formatted to display whole numbers. This document is formatted to print on 8.5"x11" paper. Include it as directed in your PDF application. Definitions of each line item are provided on the Definitions Tab. (Use this space to add additional budget information.)</p>				

# Reporting Requirements

- ▶ **State and Federal reporting requirements.** Applicants will be expected to submit quarterly, final, and on request, reports to the PSC on the activities, progress of the project, and grant costs to satisfy state and federal reporting requirements. Certain reporting requirements shall continue to be required post-disbursement.
- ▶ **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).** Applicants will be expected to comply with the reporting requirements of the ARRA that impact wage rates, equipment sourcing, environmental impact reporting, and historic preservation

# ARRA Requirements

- ▶ Buy American Provisions
- ▶ Davis Bacon Wage Rate Requirements
- ▶ National Environmental Policy Act Review
- ▶ State Historic Preservation

# Buy American Provisions

- ▶ Buy American Provisions [APPLICABLE ONLY TO PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND PUBLIC WORKS<sub>4</sub>]:
- ▶ The Buy American provisions of the Recovery Act require that all iron, steel and manufactured goods used in projects funded by the Recovery Act for the construction, alteration, maintenance or repair of a public building or public work be produced in the United States, with some limited exceptions.
- ▶ A Desk Guide to the Buy American Provisions of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009:  
[https://www.energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2016/07/f33/buy\\_american\\_desk\\_guide.pdf](https://www.energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2016/07/f33/buy_american_desk_guide.pdf)
- ▶ U.S. Department of Energy Buy American website: <https://www.energy.gov/gc/action-centeroffice-general-counsel/faqs-related-recovery-act/buy-american>

# Davis Bacon and Related Acts

- ▶ A Davis-Bacon “Related Act” will often include language further defining work that must be covered by the Davis Bacon Act prevailing wage requirements. The Recovery Act is an example of a DBRA statute. **It requires that all laborers and mechanics employed by contractors and subcontractors on projects** funded directly by or assisted in whole or in part by and through the Federal Government pursuant to the Recovery Act shall be paid wages at rates not less than those prevailing on projects of a character similar in the locality as determined by the Secretary of Labor.
- ▶ Wages for specific locations by county and construction type can be found on <https://beta.sam.gov/search?index=wd>
- ▶ A Desk Guide to The Davis-Bacon Act (including DBRA): <https://www.energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2017/04/f34/DOE%20DBA%20Desk%20Guide%20Rev.%202.%200April%2010%202017.pdf>
- ▶ U.S. Department of Energy Davis Bacon website: <https://www.energy.gov/gc/action-center-officegeneral-counsel/faqs-related-recovery-act/davis-bacon>



# State Historic Preservation Programmatic Agreement

- For project activities that involve historical, archeological or cultural resources (includes listed and eligible resources over 50 years old or of cultural significance), a review of the undertaking may be required. However, a number of energy related activities have been previously identified that do not have the potential to cause effects on historic properties, even when historic properties may be present. They are covered by an existing programmatic agreement between the U.S. Department of Energy, the Wisconsin State Historic Preservation Office and certain State agencies.
- Link to SHPO agreement covering some activities:

[https://www.energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2014/01/f7/state\\_historic\\_preservation\\_programmatic\\_agreement\\_wi.pdf](https://www.energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2014/01/f7/state_historic_preservation_programmatic_agreement_wi.pdf)

# NEPA (Application Attachment C + Environmental Questionnaire)

## NEPA BOUNDED CATEGORIES APPLICABLE TO THE ACTIVITIES OF THE OFFICE OF ENERGY INNOVATION ("STATE ENERGY OFFICE") IN 2021

- DOE has determined Bounded Categories of activities that are funded by SEP-ALRD-2021, or ARRA Financing Programs and/or funds repurposed from ARRA Financing Programs, are categorically excluded from further NEPA review, absent extraordinary circumstances, cumulative impacts, or connected actions that may lead to significant impacts on the environment, or any inconsistency with "integral elements" (as contained In 10 C.F.R. Part 1021) as they relate to a particular project
- Environmental Questionnaire required with the Application for activities NOT covered:

<https://psc.wi.gov/Documents/OEI/EIGP/DOEEnvironmentalQuestionnaire.docx>

# NEPA Review for EIGP 2021

- ▶ Environmental Questionnaire (EQ) Required with the Application as applicable for Activities 1 and 2!
  - ▶ Submit as directed in the Application Instructions as part of the ERF Filing.
- ▶ Review all “Bounded Categories” (aka covered activities) on Attachment C of the Application Instructions
  - ▶ Review carefully: #6, #7, #8 specifics on Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
  - ▶ Projects likely to require an EQ
    - ▶ Solar projects greater than 60 kw
    - ▶ All ground mounted solar projects
    - ▶ All battery storage projects
    - ▶ Industrial/commercial/large energy user process efficiency projects
- ▶ NEPA Approval must be received prior to commencing the project!

# Resources to Prepare your Application

▶ Focus on Energy: <https://focusonenergy.com/>

**Focus on Energy empowers  
the people and businesses  
of Wisconsin to make smart  
energy decisions with  
enduring economic benefits.**



## Business Offerings

- Schools & Government
- Business & Industry
- New construction modeling
- Emerging technologies
- Renewable Energy  
Competitive Incentive  
Program (RECIP)
- Small Business
- Strategic Energy Management



Wisconsin Office of Energy Innovation

# Resources to Prepare your Application

- ▶ Energy Independent Communities (EIC) more information here: <https://psc.wi.gov/Pages/Programs/OEI/EnergyIndependentCommunities.aspx> and here: <https://energyonwi.extension.wisc.edu/>
- ▶ EIC Plans are available via links above
- ▶ Watch this short YouTube video: "Power Through Partnerships: Brown County and the Oneida Nation" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UpVsz4LWURk>
- ▶ Other resources for Local Governments <https://icleiusa.org/about-us/who-we-are/>
- ▶ US DOE hub for State, Local, Tribal Governments <https://www.energy.gov/energy-economy/state-local-government>
- ▶ EPA Portfolio Manager free software for benchmarking: <https://portfoliomanager.energystar.gov/pm/login.html> and free calculator for measuring Green House gas equivalencies <https://www.epa.gov/energy/greenhouse-gas-equivalencies-calculator>

# Questions?

▶ Questions can be submitted to [oei@wisconsin.gov](mailto:oei@wisconsin.gov) prior to **December 10, 2021**

▶ Answers to those questions will be posted at our website:

<https://psc.wi.gov/Pages/Programs/OEI/EnergyInnovationGrantProgram.aspx>